

Committed to The ITU

- > The Bahamas joined the ITU in 1974
- > In July 2017, The Bahamas successfully hosted the ITU's Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-17).

“The location could not have been better chosen. It has been fantastic and it's a good turnout of over 80 countries. For us, it's a good opportunity to meet with regulators and discuss our common agendas. So yes, very successful.”

ISABEL MAURO
Head of Digital
Communications Industry
World Economic Forum

“You did a great job. I've been attending GSR almost from the beginning and this is one of the most smooth GSRs that I've ever participated in. The job The Bahamas Regulator did was amazing. It was a major success.”

FELIPE BAPTISTA
Secretary General,
ARCTEL-CPLP

“It would be fantastic if The Caribbean can stay on the forefront or get on the forefront. It's one of the most beautiful areas of the world, with some of the greatest people in the world.”

OLIVER GALE
Co-Founder & President, BITT Inc.

Regulatory Framework

Established in 2009 as an independent statutory body, the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) has led effective and efficient development of the Communications Sector in The Bahamas. URCA has facilitated significant growth and expansion in The Bahamas' ICT sector since its establishment. Recently, URCA assumed responsibility for regulating the Electricity Sector, allowing not only economies in URCA's operations, but also creating an ideal environment for The Bahamas to be a leader in the adoption of Smart, Green development solutions.

The country's involvement in the ITU and its regional counterparts (CTU and CITEL) demonstrates the country's commitment to the implementation of international best practices across the communications sector and the promotions of ICT as a key facilitator of national development.

URCA Online

www.urbahamas.bs

www.facebook.com/urca242

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YouTube: URCA Bahamas

The Bahamas A Smart Choice

About The Bahamas

Information Communications Technology (ICT) is influencing every aspect of national, regional and global development. The Bahamas, an archipelagic nation of 700 islands and Cays, spread over 100,000 square miles of the Atlantic Ocean, recognizes the vital role ICT plays in national, regional global transformation. We've established a national fiber-optic network that links the islands of the country and creates the ICT Footprint, which serves as the catalyst for national development in this global, technological age. This infrastructure which extends outward from New Providence, establishes the foundation necessary to facilitate national expansion opportunities through ICT.

The strategic positioning of our country, located just off the southeast coast of Florida, USA and just northeast of Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic affords us the luxury of extending our information superhighway into South Florida to the northwest and as far south as Haiti and Jamaica. It has already provided significant benefit in the areas of tourism, financial services, regional and global trade and e-business opportunities.

The Bahamas' ICT Infrastructure is considered among the best in the Western Hemisphere. That achievement together with our commitment to continue to embrace ICT as a catalyst for national development, positions the country as a regional leader.



UTILITIES REGULATION COMPETITION AUTHORITY

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UTILITIES REGULATION COMPETITION AUTHORITY



A Technology Driven Country

There is a concentrated focus on the development of the technology industry through logistics, infrastructure and policy. The aim is to develop Freeport as an offshore technology hub, which will play a pivotal role in attracting new substantial and sustainable development in Grand Bahama.

The ultimate objective is to establish the Technology Industry as a 3rd Pillar of the Bahamian economy, diversify the economy by embracing Block Chain Technology, strengthening education for innovation, integrate Bahamians living and working abroad with local development and develop Tech Incubators and Accelerators for entrepreneurship and innovation.

“My government is fully committed to promoting the technology industry and showcasing Grand Bahama as the emerging gateway for innovation and technology. The Grand Bahama Technology Summit, invited industry stakeholders to assist my government in shaping policies for the development of an emerging technology industry within Grand Bahama specifically, and by extension the entire Bahamas”

THE HONOURABLE,
DR. HUBERT A. MINNIS
Prime Minister, Commonwealth of The Bahamas

5 Five Reasons To Support The Bahamas ITU Bid

1. A Progressive Small Island Developing State (SIDS), with an impressive, evolving ICT infrastructure
2. A regional thought leader in ICT policy and development
3. A commitment to the expansion of ICT to facilitate National Development
4. An advocate for SIDS with specific focus on expanding broadband connectivity, and the use of ICTs in Disaster Preparedness and Management and combating Climate Change
5. Endorsed by the member states of CARICOM, and an active member of CITEL's Executive Council (COM/CITEL)



Caricom's Candidate

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which comprises 15-member states of the region was established to promote economic integration and cooperation among its members, to ensure the benefits of integration are equitably shared and to coordinate foreign policy. The Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) is the primary CARICOM agency responsible for the furtherance of its regional integration mandate as it relates to ICTs. The CTU was established in 1989, in Nassau, The Bahamas. Since that time, The Bahamas has been a consistent and active member of the CTU.

In endorsing The Bahamas' candidature, Bernadette Lewis, Secretary General of the CTU noted "Given The Bahamas' knowledge of the Caribbean and their understanding of the ICT issues facing the

region, CARICOM and the CTU endorse and fully support The Bahamas' candidacy for an ITU Council Seat. The CTU is confident that The Bahamas would be an effective and valuable contributor to ITU Council proceedings. The Bahamas has demonstrated its readiness to be a voice for the interests of the Caribbean and for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in general particularly in regards the integration of ICTs for the technological advancement of rural communities, and social inclusiveness."

CTU Member-Countries: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Belize, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Martin, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Turks and Caicos Islands, Trinidad and Tobago.



Prime Minister, The Honourable, Dr. Hubert A. Minnis (Third from right) engages with ITU Secretary General, Houlin Zhao and Brahima Sanou, Director, BDT, ITU (At right) at GSR-17. Also apart of the discussion are Attorney General, Carl Bethel, former URCA Chairman, Randol Dorsett and URCA's CEO, Stephen Bereaux.

Smart Bahamas

While in The Bahamas in April 2016, the Secretary General of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Houlin Zhao, acknowledged the technological advancements achieved on the island of New Providence. Evidence of the Government's commitment to deliver essential services in The Bahamas through ICT Initiatives is driving the concept of a Smart Bahamas to fruition.

The innovations include, the integration of ICTs and further upgrade of telecoms infrastructure in the public education system, deployment of telemedicine initiatives and the increase in online Government services.

